bridge had been urged upon the Government at successive sessions of the Assembly from the 20th and the Government had replied that estimates were getting ready.

The wet lands at Perinchilampu depended on the Tacharakottu river for water for irrigation purposes. Several dams had been in existence from time immemorial for diverting water to the adjoining fields, but many of them were in disrepair. Breaches were also occurring from time to time. The facts had been represented to the Public Works Department but with no effect. An adequate amount should be provided every year for maintaining the river in proper condition for purposes of irrigation.

The ryots' road leading from the 2nd mile of the Tuckalai-Kulasekharapuram road and joining the Padmanabhapuram-Tiruvattar road should be taken over by the Government for departmental maintenance after constructing the necessary bridges and culverts. The people on either side of the road were agriculturists owning lands at Perinchilampu, and that road was therefore an absolute necessity.

The wide lane leading from the 2nd mile of the Kulasekharapuram-Trippa-rappu road should be converted into a cart road. The need for the work had been urged upon the Government at successive sessions of the Assembly from the 19th. It was absolutely necessary for the agriculturists of the locality.

The road from Mulagummudu to Palliyadi was unfit for cart traffic during the rainy season. Palliyadi being an important business centre, the wheeled traffic on the road was heavy. It should therefore be metalled and maintained properly.

The produce of the hilly tracts of the Kotanallur *pakuthi* had to be taken to the Manalikara market for sale. Thefts of crops and other articles in those places were on the increase. Complaints regarding crimes had to be made to the Tuckalai Police Station, 5 miles away, or to the Tiruvattar Station, 6 miles away, or to the Kulasekharam Police Station, 5½ miles away. A police outpost should be opened at Manakkavila.

The member's next prayer was for the opening of a half-yearly dispensary at Mekkod at the place where the Forest Watch Station was located. The place being malarial, a dispensary was a necessity. The half-yearly dispensary transferred from Perumkadavila might be located at Mekkod.

The Thuckalai Hospital was an important hospital in the locality and was being resorted to by many patients. A compound wall should be built for the hospital.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Pillai, the Director of Public Instruction has already proposed to open one or two Primary Schools in the *pakuthies* you mentioned.

As regards the extension of the P. P. channel *via* Kayalkara to Perinchilampu, the Chief Engineer points out that the construction of the channel will be extremely costly, and besides he will have to wait and see whether there will be water to spare after the conversions in the already opened blocks are completed.

Then, we get to the big road. You ask for a road from Valvachagoshtam to Colachel along the Pampuri *vaikal*. That is going to be a very expensive road. The rough estimate comes to about Rs. 95,000. So I fear it will have to stand over indefinitely.

As regards the other points, you will very kindly select four which you consider most urgent, most pressing, and inform the Government which these four are. Government will try their best to meet your wishes in regard to those four points.

### ¶ 85. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. K. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) represented that the ryots of the southern portion of the old Eraniel taluk were experiencing great losses on account of *azhukichetam* every year ever since the construction of the Pechippara dam. The lands were situated on a low level and were always under water 6 inches deep. The necessary drainage channels should be opened. The existing *kals* in the locality also required improvements.

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When the crops were destroyed by *azhukichetam*, the tax for the year on the lands concerned should be remitted. During the rainy season, the rain water from the surrounding places flowed into the fields situated on the lower level, and there being no drainage channels, the crops were subject to *azhukichetam*. If remission could not be allowed as prayed for, arrangements should at least be made for the drainage of the accumulated water.

The lands in question were, before the Pechippara dam was constructed, yielding 15 to 20 *kottas* of paddy per acre. Since the Pechippara water became available, the yield began to decline, though the lands were liable also to pay a water cess of one rupee an acre. The cess should therefore be abolished.

The member's next prayer was for the transfer of one of the two Munsiffs' Courts at Tuckalai to Eraniel. The population of Eraniel was larger than that of Tuckalai. It was an industrial and a trading centre in South Travancore next in importance only to Kottar. There was no public institution at Eraniel except a Mission hospital and a market. The pepole of the southern parts of Kalkulam had now to go to Tuckalai to file civil suits. Eraniel being nearer to them than Tuckalai, it would be very convenient if a Munsiff's Court be established at Eraniel. Moreover, of the 22 *pakuthies* of the Kalkulam taluk included within the jurisdiction of the Tuckalai Munsiff. 11 belonged to the old Eraniel taluk. Of the total number of cases filed in each of the years 1100 and 1101, more than half were from the 11 *pakuthies*. Besides, one-fifth of the total number of cases was from the Eraniel *pakuthi* itself. In the circumstances, a Munsiff's Court should be opened at Eraniel. The Government would thereby be saving the rent of one of the Munsiffs' Courts at Tuckalai. The old Taluk Cutcherry building at Eraniel was vacant and could, with advantage, be utilised for housing the Munsiff's Court. The prayer was an old one and even recently a monster petition had been submitted in the matter.

The Monday Market was being held on both the sides of the road leading from Colachel to Eraniel. The Government were contemplating the transfer of the market to one side of the road and constructing a compound wall there with one gate so as to facilitate the collection of dues. The proposed arrangement would be inconvenient as the market-going people would number about 50,000. There should therefore be at least five gates. Again the transfer of the market to one side would necessitate the sale of the various commodities in one and the same place, which would not be popular. As for the collection of dues, it would be enough to arrange that certain commodities alone should be brought on one side and the others at the other side. The member was of opinion that the market should continue to be held on both sides of the road.

An extent of about 3,000 acres of dry land between the Tiruvitankod channel and Trikkanamkod could easily be converted into wet land by means of a *kal* opened from the above said channel along Trikkanamkod. The Chief Engineer had inspected the place and agreed to the proposal. The estimated cost would only be about Rs. 20,000, which could be recouped in one year by the recovery of water cess at Rs. 7 an acre. Most of the lands required for the channel would be surrendered by the owners without compensation.

The last prayer was for the conversion of the pathway leading from the 2nd mile, 4th furlong, of the Monday Market-Colachel road to Mulagammudu into a cart road. The existing pathway was in a neglected condition and useless to the people. The road was already 8 feet wide and there was no necessity to acquire additional lands for widening it.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Velayudhan Pillai, I cannot spare time to give you answers to all the points taken up by you. I shall confine myself to just one point. The rest will be considered in due course. That point is about Monday Market. You said that it is being held on each side of the road, much to the inconvenience and general detriment of the traffic passing there. That of course did not concern you apparently, for you consider in your speech firstly, the interest of the fee-collectors of the market and secondly, of the users of the market. In regard to the first, the only objection you have to transferring the market to one side of the road is

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that a large number of gates will be necessary including a large number of gate-keepers. To my mind that is not an objection at all. Your other objection is that if it is kept on both sides of the road the different commodities can be kept separately. I do not see any reason why that should not be the case if there are separating walls. I am afraid the convenience of the people using the road is the first consideration, whether any serious inconvenience is caused to the users of the market or not. I am afraid I cannot meet your wishes in that point, and the transfer of the market to one side of the road will have to be effected.

**86. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.**

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Vilavankod taluk*) spoke first about the irrigational facilities in Vilavankod taluk. In the reply to the representation made on the subject at the previous session of the Assembly, the Dewan referred only to channel irrigation and said:

"You referred to the question of channel irrigation in the Vilavankod taluk from the Kodayar. This is a matter which requires very careful investigation and I daresay will be taken up when it is found that Kodayar is able to supply water to Vilavankod. As you know, the R. B. C. was abandoned some time ago as it was found that it was not worth constructing."

The inhabitants of Vilavankod were aware that it was not easy to get water through the R. B. C. but what they wanted was the construction of a dam at Chittar No. I and the diversion of water therefrom by channel irrigation. The point was not covered by the reply although, in the Statement of Action taken on the representations, it was stated as 'disposed of at the meeting.' Again the member said that he knew that the Chittar scheme had been investigated and reported on by the Chief Engineer and that the report had been under the consideration of the Government. But, subsequently, it was rumoured that the Government decided to register the Chittar catchment area. Until expert opinion was obtained as to the feasibility of the Chittar scheme, it was not advisable to register the catchment area; and the scheme itself should be undertaken soon. He was given to understand that the Chief Engineer had no objection to the registry of land 20 feet above the catchment area. But the clearing of the area for purposes of cultivation would cause silting up of the Chittar by the gradual passage of soil from the cultivated area and that would prove a source of trouble if the Chittar scheme fructified. In the circumstances, the member prayed that no portion of the catchment area should be registered.

Incidentally, he also prayed that no portion of the Kalial forests should be registered, since registry would cause scarcity of water in the Vilavankod taluk. But if the Government decided to register the lands at any time, they should be registered only in the names of the inhabitants of the Vilavankod taluk and nobody else. If the Government were bent upon registering land in the locality, an extent of about 4,000 acres of land adjoining the Chittar catchment area was available for registry and that area might be assigned. He then read out the following three resolutions passed at a public meeting held at Kuzhitturai on the 24th Makaram 1102:—

"(1) That till the Government came to a definite decision as to the Chittar scheme, now under consideration, no land which may be useful for the purpose should be registered.

(2) That, in view to meet the demands of the ever-increasing population of the Vilavankod taluk, the *puduval* lands available in the taluk should be assigned to the inhabitants of the taluk or to other subjects of the State and that no land should be assigned to foreigners.

(3) That the Chittar scheme now under consideration should be put in hand soon in view to facilitate channel irrigation."

The member next said that the tanks included in the minor irrigation works of the taluk were silted up and breaches had occurred to many of them during the floods of 1101. The damages should be promptly repaired. The Chittar and Vialiattu mukham schemes should be investigated as early as possible. Besides, the question of connecting Mr. Horsley's Pirichani reservoir at the upper reaches of the Pandiyan *kal* with the Pechippara dam to improve the salt factories should also be investigated.

The member's next request was for the opening of a dispensary at Putukada or Tengapattanam for the use of the southern *pakuthies* of the Vilavankod taluk. The Inspecting Medical Officer was convinced of the necessity for a hospital at Putukada. As for a building for housing the hospital, the member suggested that the vacant Customs House at the place might be utilised for the purpose.

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